

Message Text

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71

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 AF-10 EA-11 ISO-00 COME-00 INT-08 SCI-06

SCEM-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 NEA-10 CIEP-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /165 W

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R 111745Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2676

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS ROME 0480

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN PRESS REACTION TO PRESIDENTIAL INVITATION
TO ENERGY CONFERENCE

REF: ROME 0424

1. ITALIAN PRESS CONTINUES TO DEVOTE CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION
TO PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE TO CONVENE ENERGY CONFERENCE IN
WASHINGTON FEBRUARY 11, AS WELL AS SECRETARY KISSINGER'S
JANUARY 10 PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS ON THE ENERGY SITUATION.

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MOST FAVORABLE COMMENTARY APPEARS IN EDITORIALS IN MILAN'S

/CORRIERE DELLA SERA/ AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC, /POPOLO/.
VIRTUALLY ALL REPORTS FOCUS ON STRESS PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE
IS PLACING ON EC. WHEREAS CONSIDERABLE REACTION FROM OTHER
INVITEE CAPITALS IS REPORTED, GOI CIRCLES CONTINUE TO
REMAIN MUTE.

2. MOST OF PRESS ATTENTION CENTERS AROUND HOW EC WILL REACT
TO PRESIDENTIAL INVITATION AND WHETHER RESPONSES WILL BE BY
INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES OR BY COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE. /IL SOLE
24 ORE/ COMMENTS THAT US HAS ONCE AGAIN PLACED COMMUNITY ON
THE DEFENSIVE, WITH EUROPE ENTANGLED IN ITS INTERNAL CONTRADICTIONS
AND HETEROGENEITY OF VIEWS. ARTICLE CRITICIZES
EUROPEANS FOR PROCRASTINATING OVER THE PAST MONTHS, CHOOSING
RATHER TO ADOPT A "DOLCE FAR NIENTE" POLICY. CONCLUDES THAT
EUROPEAN DESIRE TO BUILD SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ARABS
NEED NOT FORCE COMMUNITY TO FOREGO ESTABLISHING A PARALLEL
DIALOGUE WITH US. REMINDS EUROPEANS THAT THEY MUST SEEK NEW
SOURCES OF ENERGY, INITIATIVES WHICH WILL REQUIRE COLLABORATION
WITH AND INVESTMENT FROM US.

3. /CORRIERE DELLA SERA/ FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL NOTING TENDANCY
IN ITALIAN GOVERNMENT CIRCLES TO OPT FOR BILATERAL AGREEMENTS,
URGES THAT US OFFER BE ACCEPTED EVEN IF IT WOULD SEEM TO
CONFLICT WITH BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY. /CORRIERE/
COMMENTS THAT IT IS TIME FOR EUROPEANS TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER
RENEWING ATLANTIC TIES WITH AMERICA AND SUGGESTS THAT FEBRUARY
11 CONFERENCE IS THE APPROPRIATE OCCASION. /POPOLO/, IN EDITORIAL
ENTITLED "NECESSARY DIALOGUE", SUPPORTS PRESIDENT
NIXON'S INVITATION TO WASHINGTON CONFERENCE AS WELL AS GROWING SIGNS
OF
OPEC WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS SUPPLIES AND PRICES WITH CONSUMING
COUNTRIES.

4. BOTH /MESSAGGERO/ AND COMMUNIST /UNITA'/ ARE CRITICAL OF
US INITIATIVE. /MESSAGGERO/ SUGGESTS THAT US INTERNATIONAL
OIL COMPANIES BY WITHHOLDING SUPPLIES FROM EUROPE ARE PARTIALLY
RESPONSIBLE FOR EUROPEAN EFFORTS TO SECURE OIL THROUGH BILATERAL
DEALS. CONCLUDES THAT EUROPEAN DOUBTS ABOUT CLARITY
AND STRIGHTFORWARDNESS OF AMERICAN POLICY ARE JUSTIFIED.
/UNITA'/ SUGGESTS THAT REAL MOTIVATION OF NIXON INITIATIVE IS
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TO REAFFIRM AMERICAN HEGEMONY IN SEEKING TO OVERCOME THE
ENERGY CRISIS.

5. MOST OF REPORTS FEATURE AMPLE REACTIONS FROM OTHER EC
CAPITALS, JAPAN AND CANADA. THERE CONTINUE TO BE NO
REFERENCES HOWEVER, TO OFFICIAL REACTION FROM GOI CIRCLES. VOLPE

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